

Walker Counties to levy a special tax for war purposes and have the same collected immediately.

A Bill appropriating money defraying all expenses for nations and forage 21st Brigade Texas State Troops.

A Bill making an appropriation to defray the contingent expenses of the extra session, 9th Legislature.

On motion the Senate adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M. tomorrow.

Wednesday, February 25, 1863

9 o'clock A. M.

Senate met, President *pro tem* in the Chair, prayer by the Chaplain, roll called, quorum present. The journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

A message was received from the House informing the Senate that the House had passed the following bills:

A Bill to authorize the Commissioner of the General Land Office to issue to all persons and corporations such land certificates as they may be entitled to receive under any general or special law of the state.

A Bill to incorporate the Texas Paper Manufacturing Company.

A Bill to incorporate the Comal Manufacturing Company.

A Resolution to adjourn *sine die* Monday, 2nd March, 1863.

A Bill to punish those who take the Alien Oath and refuse a participation in our struggle.

A Bill to procure specie to enable the people to pay the specie tax.

Mr. Casey moved to suspend the rule in order to take up a bill relative to property levied on by execution and requiring it to bring nine tenths of its value. Lost.

A Bill to regulate the cultivation of cotton. Read 3rd time. Mr. Lair moved a call of the Senate which was sustained. The Senate not being full.

A Bill requiring property levied on by execution, etc. to bring nine-tenths of its appraised value was taken up. Read 3rd time.

Mr. Harcourt offered the following amendment: "Provided that this act shall not apply to any administrator or guardian who may be a party plaintiff in any action for the recovery of a debt due the estate of a decedent or to

any ward of such guardian." On motion of Mr. Ford the amendment was laid on the table.

Mr. Cooper offered the following amendment: "Provided in such case the plaintiff shall pay all costs that have accrued in advertising or selling said property. "Withdrawn by Mr. Cooper, whereupon the Yeas and Nays were called on the final passage of the bill and stood thus.

Yeas: Messrs. Andres, Batte, Beasley, Boyd, Burney, Casey, Cook, Cooper, Dickson, Durant, Graham, Guinn, Lair, Moore of Davis, Quayle, Weatherford, and White—17.

Nays: Messrs. Crawford, Ford, Harcourt, Lea, Maxey, Moore of Bastrop, Parsons, Reed, Selman, and Shepard—10.

A Bill to regulate the cultivation of cotton, coming up on its third reading on motion of Mr. Parsons the Senate resolved itself into a committee of the whole, Mr. Guinn in the Chair.

After some time spent therein the committee rose, reported progress, and asked to be discharged from further consideration of the subject. Report adopted. Whereupon the Senate adjourned until 3 o'clock P. M.

3 o'clock P. M.

Senate met, roll called, quorum present.

Mr. Lea, Chairman of Committee on Finance, on behalf of said Committee by leave reported a Bill to appropriate \$1,000 to pay the expenses of taking up, committing, keeping, and conveying to the Penitentiary runaway slaves and recommended its passage.

Mr. Lea also made the following reports:

The Committee on Finance to which were referred sundry bills proposing to repeal the law for raising a specie tax to sustain the loan bonds or to suspend the collection of that tax has duly considered all such propositions and has given its views of this subject in a former report maintaining the necessity and propriety of a regular collection of the tax and proposing aid to taxpayers. Such views of the Committee are sustained by both branches of the Legislature in enactments which have already been passed during this session: Hence the Committee returns the bills and asks to be discharged from further consideration of them.

Pryor Lea
Chairman

The Committee on Finance to which was referred a resolution that the Committee inquire into the expediency and practicability of the State's purchasing and distributing cotton and wool cards has made appropriate inquiry and reports the resolution with a request to be discharged from further consideration of the subject.

The importance of the subject is questionable; but varied information justifies the belief that the great demand will be extensively supplied by other means before there could be any return from any measure adopted under this resolution. The State Military Board has made arrangements for a large number of cards and ordinary commerce is providing many more. Moreover, all available funds are not sufficient to meet other pressing necessities of the State government.

Pryor Lea
Chairman

The Committee on Finance to which was referred a resolution that the Committee inquire into the propriety of authorizing the Comptroller to sell certain lots in the City of Austin belonging to the State has made the requisite inquiry and herewith reports a bill to provide for such sale and recommends its passage.

The Committee deems it expedient that such sale should be made as soon as convenient. The lots will probably sell for good prices payable in Treasury warrants of the State. Even if prices somewhat higher might be obtained by receiving in payment the ordinary currency of Confederate Treasury warrants, yet the difference might be less important than the acquisition of the outstanding paper of the State. To require payment in the States liabilities is so just and natural that it cannot be construed into discouragement of the Confederate paper. As the State is receiving Confederate paper for taxes there would seem to be great propriety in requiring paper of the State in payment on sale of the public property. In the absence of State bonds to absorb other State paper and when the amount of such paper must far exceed the income from taxation, the credit of State Treasury warrants would be sustained by making special demand for them in judicious

sales of public property. In preparing the bill the Committee submits the policy for consideration.

Pryor Lea

Chairman

A Bill to provide for sale of lots in the city of Austin.
Read 1st time.

On Mr. Weatherford's motion, the Senate resolved itself into Committee of the Whole on a Bill to regulate the cultivation of cotton, Mr. Dickson in the Chair. After some time spent therein the Committee rose, reported progress, and asked to be discharged. Report adopted. Whereupon Mr. Harcourt offered the following amendment: "Provided that the restriction herein imposed shall not apply to the owner or cultivator of any land who may be in the military service of the Country or to the widow of any soldier who may have died or been killed in the service."

Mr. Shepard moved to amend the proposed amendment by adding thereto, "Provided further that the provisions of this act shall not apply to any widow whose son or sons may have been killed or disabled during the war." Accepted by Mr. Harcourt.

Mr. Durant moved to lay the amendment on the table, upon which the Yeas and Nays were as follows:

Yeas: Messrs. Beasley, Boyd, Burney, Cooper, Crawford, Durant, Graham, Guinn, Hartley, Lea, Lair, Maxey, Parsons, Quayle, Weatherford, and Wheeler—16.

Nays: Messrs. Andres, Casey, Dickson, Ford, Harcourt, Hord, Moore of Davis, Moore of Bastrop, Reed, Selman, Shepard, and White—12.

Mr. Harcourt moved to adjourn until tomorrow morning 9 o'clock, upon which the Yeas and Nays were called and stood thus:

Yeas: Messrs. Casey, Dickson, Ford, Harcourt, Hartley, Hord, Moore of Davis, Moore of Bastrop, Reed, Selman, Shepard, and White—12.

Nays: Messrs. Andres, Beasley, Boyd, Burney, Cooper, Crawford, Durant, Graham, Guinn, Lea, Lair, Maxey, Parsons, Weatherford, and Wheeler—17 [15].

Mr. Lea moved to strike out the latter part of 2nd Section, to wit: all after words "cotton cultivation." Carried.

Mr. Harcourt offered the following amendment: "That in order to ascertain the quantity of land in cultivation,

the County Surveyor of each and every County in the State shall proceed to survey and stake off all the land in cultivation by each and every planter in his County, and correctly mark off the one third of the same to be cultivated in cotton, and if the survey shall not be so made before the time for pitching the crop, no penalty shall attach or be imposed for any violation of the provisions of this act."

Mr. Guinn moved to lay the proposition on the table, whereupon Mr. Harcourt moved a call of the Senate which was sustained.

Mr. Hartley moved to adjourn until 8 o'clock P. M. Lost.

The Senate then proceeded to the consideration of a bill to regulate the price of articles of prime necessity. The substitute offered by the Committee on State Affairs was adopted. Mr. Guinn offered the following as a substitute for 1st Section: "That it shall be lawful for the County Court of each and every County in this state to fix upon and establish a tariff of prices upon all articles necessary for the support of the families of soldiers in their respective Counties and may alter or change the same from time to time which tariff shall be fixed upon the articles of bread-stuff, meat, shoes, drugs, leather, salt, merchandise, and blacksmithing. Provided however that the said tariff shall not enure to the benefit of any except the families of the widows of soldiers."

Mr. Casey moved to amend by inserting after "drugs," "Doctors' charges for medical attention." Pending this question, it was announced that the Senate was full, whereupon Mr. Shepard moved to postpone the further consideration of the bill to regulate the cultivation of cotton until Friday next at 11 o'clock A. M. Upon which the Yeas and Nays were called and stood thus:

Yeas: Messrs. Andres, Batte, Casey, Cook, Dickson, Ford, Harcourt, Hartley, Hord, Moore of Davis, Moore of Bastrop, Reed, Selman, Shepard, and White—15.

Nays: Messrs. Beasley, Boyd, Burney, Cooper, Crawford, Durant, Graham, Guinn, Lea, Lair, Maxey, Parsons, Quayle, Weatherford, and Wheeler—15.

The President voted Nay.

Mr. Dickson made a question whether the Senate was full, there being three members who had not reported this extra session.

The President decided that as the absent members had not answered at this extra session of the Senate, it was full. Whereupon Mr. Harcourt appealed and, having withdrawn the appeal, the Senate adjourned until 9 o'clock A. M. tomorrow.

Thursday, February 26, 1863
9 o'clock A. M.

Senate met, prayer by the Chaplain, roll called, quorum present. The journal of yesterday was read and adopted.

Mr. Harcourt introduced a Bill to repeal the act approved December 25, 1861, to provide for the organization of the State Troops and to place the same on a war footing. Read 1st time.

Messrs. Durant, Reed, Parsons, Maxey, and Hord were announced as the select committee on the subject of the militia upon Mr. Durant's motion to refer to such a committee made on Monday last.

Mr. Lea, Chairman of the Committee on Finance, on behalf of that Committee reported upon the suggestion contained in President Davis' message that the several states of the Confederacy assume each their proportional parts of the public debt of the Confederacy, that as the Senate had taken action on the subject the Committee asked to be discharged from its further consideration.

Mr. Lea, Chairman as aforesaid, also asked for the same reason that the committee be discharged from the further consideration of the subject of repealing the specie tax.

Mr. Hartley moved a reconsideration of the vote taken on yesterday, laying the amendment of Mr. Harcourt as suggestively amended by Mr. Shepard on the table. The Yeas and Nays being called on the motion to reconsider, Mr. Hartley moved a call of the Senate which was sustained, the Senate not being full. Mr. Burney moved to suspend the order of business in order to take up a House bill for the relief of those holding land under Daniel Monroe. Carried. Read 2nd time and passed to 3rd reading. Rule suspended. Read 3rd time and passed.

Mr. Maxey moved to suspend the order of business that a bill granting land to the officers and soldiers of Texas in the present war might be taken up. Lost.

Mr. Shepard moved to take up a bill to repeal the laws